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Qatar WTO summit met with intl. protest

More than 100 union and social activists joined a protest outside the entrance to the Doha, Qatar, Conference Center as the opening ceremony of the Fourth Ministerial World Trade Organization Conference was set to begin.

The WTO relocated its meeting to the Persian Gulf emirate, where there is no pretense of democracy, in order to avoid the massive demonstrations that confronted similar conferences in Seattle, Quebec City and Washington, D.C.

Demonstrators held signs which read "No Voice in the WTO." Many had taped up their mouths as a symbolic protest at working peoples' absence from the negotiating rooms of the WTO.

"We want to give a clear message here in Qatar, just as thousands are doing around the world as part of the Global Unions Day of Action, that globalization needs to work for people, and that the WTO must become more open and democratic," said ICFTU General Secretary Bill Jordan.

Unions organized actions in 45 countries to demand global economic policies that advance worker's rights and support quality universal education and health care. Many of the largest actions took place in the poverty-stricken countries that are bearing the brunt of international capital's economic agenda. In Mongolia, Malaysia, Tunisia, France, and elsewhere, unions hit workplaces with posters, leaflets and meetings aimed at broadening understanding of globalization and its negative effects.

In Turkey a "March Against Unemployment, Corruption and War and for Global Equality, Justice and Peace" saw unemployed workers, retired people, young people and unionists converge on Ankara from five cities drawing attention to globalization issues along the way. Some 8,000 workers demonstrated in Paris and tens of thousand in Italy. Other protests were held in Hong Kong, Norway, New Zealand, Ecuador and elsewhere, often linking domestic agendas to the issue of corporate globalization.

While many of these actions accepted the inevitability of capitalist domination, some raised a broader critique. The Slovak Stock Exchange in Bratislava was occupied, and a giant banner proclaiming "Capitalism is an organized crime" hung from the building for an hour before firemen removed the banner and the activists holding it.

While the conference was underway at press time, proposals for new talks toward an agreement on investments were encountering resistance. Many countries voiced opposition to draft declarations on agriculture, services and intellectual property rights, and it appeared likely that the WTO would again adjourn without reaching formal decisions. Any declaration would be an attempt to paper over widening differences and maintain the facade of progress in the effort to build a planet-wide free trade zone.

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Ontario: The disruption must go on

BY JEFF SHANTZ

It has often been said that the first casualty of war is the truth. If that's the case then the second casualty is dissent (connected as they so often are).

After the events of September 11, many activists in Toronto and beyond argued that the Ontario Common Front, a coalition of 80 groups including unions, community organizations, social justice groups, First Nations and students, should call off its economic disruption planned for October 16 in Toronto's financial district. "The symbolism is too sharp; Tensions are too high," they said. The altered context after the 11th suggested to some that direct action was no longer a viable tactic. Indeed, meetings of the Common Front and the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty in the days and weeks after the attacks in the US gave much thought and discussion to the possibilities for action on O16. In the end, however, there was almost unanimous agreement that the economic disruption must go forward and must not be merely symbolic in nature.

The reason for this was simple: the Tory government in Ontario has in no way backed off of its vicious neoliberal agenda of attacks on poor people in the province. In fact only days after September 11 the Tories an-

nounced that new corporate tax cuts scheduled for January would be instituted immediately (something which proved unworkable). Even more ominously they established a new provincial security detail to carry out surveillance and harassment of immigrants and refugees.

Months before Oct. 16 the Common Front research committee put together a detailed report on the financial connections between the Conservative Party and companies with offices in the financial hub. In order to make explicit the connections between specific corporate backers and the Tories, the snake march stopped at various locations within the financial district. Following are just a few of the highlights with justifications as provided in the Common Front research report.

The first stop was the Adelaide Centre. The Adelaide Centre houses the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party office and the PC Ontario Fund office. In addition the building is owned by Oxford Properties, one of North America's largest commercial real estate developers.

Next stop was First Canadian Place, home to the Bank of Montreal. The Bank of Montreal and BMO Nesbitt Burns have con-

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Students, unions, vow fight for Philly schools

"Two-Four-Six-Eight, we need funds to educate," chanted hundreds of high school students who helped organize a Nov. 8 rally against plans to privatize Philadelphia's school system. "I don't think we need a for-profit company running our schools," said Stephanie Rouse, a Philadelphia Student Union member at Simon Gratz High School.

"They need to put that money into something more important. We have 30 or 35 kids in some of my classes, with one teacher," Rouse said. "If we have questions, there's no way the teacher gets around to all of us."

Philadelphia union and community activists are fighting a scheme under which the state would take over the schools, currently run by the city and its school board, in response to a financial crisis brought on by decades of underfunding and turn management over to Edison Schools Inc.

Edison operates elementary schools around the country, bringing an assembly-line approach to education that emphasizes standardized lesson plans and tests, centralized administrative control, and outsourcing of support services. Under Gov. Mark Schweiker's plan, Edison would run the school district's administrative offices and directly operate 45 schools.

Edison has already been paid \$2.7 million to produce a self-serving report estimating that it could save the state \$700 million over five years by privatizing the system, notes Asian Americans United co-president Helen Gym. "I want to know what parent, teacher, student or Philadelphian honestly wants a company who thinks that the num-



Hundreds rallied against school privatization Nov. 8.

ber one cost priority is fewer teachers in our schools! More children packed into an overcrowded classroom! Is that how [Edison founder and CEO] Chris Whittle pays for his salary? Is that how corporate perks and bonuses are met? Is that what Edison's shareholders say boosts their stock value?"

Public opposition is so widespread that Philadelphia Mayor John Street, who earlier signed an agreement giving the state partial control of the school system, has set up an office in school headquarters and vowed to fight the takeover in the courts and "in the streets." Street is refusing to negotiate the fate of the city's schools until Schweiker abandons plans to privatize district management.

No one questions that serious changes are needed in the schools. "Our buildings are old, leaking, and infested with vermin," notes Dobbins High School English teacher Barbara Dowdall. "Our fountains are not safe for drinking. Our textbooks are ancient, our libraries ill-stocked and understaffed."

"The governor sees nothing but test scores – nothing that goes on at our schools... The resources that the state has finally admitted that we lack will now have to be shared with Edison and its stockholders."

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International Solidarity Conference

In June 1999 workers from anarcho-syndicalist, revolutionary-syndicalist and industrial unionist organizations from many countries came together in San Francisco at the International Solidarity Conference I99. For four days they shared their experience and discussed many issues including the struggle against the World Bank, ways of linking workers' struggles with environmental activism, and the fight against poverty. A topic of particular importance was how to ensure ongoing international communication between the workers attending the conference.

Now, two years later, we want to invite you to a follow-up gathering to be held from 29th August to 1st September 2002 in Essen (Germany). We want to carry on and intensify the discussions begun in San Francisco. Capitalist globalization, a major topic at I99, has been thrust into the consciousness of many workers in the last two. Partly this is due to the impressive demonstrations in Seattle, Quebec, Prague, Gothenburg and Genoa, but mainly to the worsening of workers' own situation. Resistance against capitalist exploitation is mounting all around the world.

At the I2002 conference we want to discuss how to improve the coordination of union struggles world-wide and how our own rich experience of self-organized struggle against capitalist exploitation and state control can be made available to other workers around the world. There will again be plenty of opportunity for sharing concrete experience.

Come to Essen and bring your experience with you! Together we can talk and take the next step in the struggle for a free world – a world without capitalist exploitation and state oppression!

Readers' Soapbox

The only precondition for participants at the i2002 conference is that they agree with the following four principles: 1. The class of those who are forced to sell their labour power (the working class) and the class of exploiters have nothing in common. 2. The working class must organize independently in order to fight the class of exploiters. 3. In this struggle the working class's most important weapon is direct action. 4. Only the workers themselves can do away with the global system of capitalist exploitation.

FAU-IWA I2002 Organization Group,
i2002@fau.org, Wolfstr. 10 (Hh),
D - 53 111 Bonn, Germany

International education union meeting in Brussels

After our preceding meetings (Grenada, Rome, Malaga, Paris, Goteborg, Barcelona), the FTE (Federation of Education Workers - CNT-F) invites your organization to a meeting of revolutionary unions in the education field during the Brussels summit to be held in December 2001. We are working on the organization of this meeting, and technical details (agenda, meeting places) will follow.

Anarcho-syndicalist and revolutionary unionist greetings for the FTE board, Gregory Chambat, ollonois@club-internet.fr

Editor's Note: The 2001 IWW General Assembly voted to encourage members to participate in these sectoral gatherings of revolutionary unionists in order to explore opportunities for closer coordination of our struggles and to build stronger solidarity. Members employed in education who are in a position to participate in this conference should contact IWW general headquarters for credentials.

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Post Office Box 13476
Philadelphia, PA 19101 USA
215/763-1274 • ghq@iww.org

General Secretary-Treasurer:
Alexis Buss

General Executive Board:
Joshua Freeze (chair), Bill Bradley, Mark Damron, John Hollingsworth, Breeze Luetke-Stahlman, Bruce Mark Nevin, Aaron Rothenburger

Editor: Jon Bekken
11 Bexley Road #2
Roslindale MA 02131 USA
iw@parsons.iww.org

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Accuride workers still defiant

Rejecting yet another surrender pact negotiated by United Auto Workers officials by a 97 percent vote, locked-out Accuride auto parts workers remain determined to fight for a decent contract. 405 workers at the Henderson, Kentucky, plant were locked out in March 1998 after deciding to end a five-week strike.

The new proposal would have eliminated all skilled trades and janitorial positions, based all raises on performance standards determined by the company, and imposed co-payments on health insurance amounting to \$200 per month for a family.

Only about 100 of the 405 locked-out workers would have been offered their jobs back. But desperate to escape a fight it has no stomach to pursue, the UAW pushed the deal anyway – sending it to a snap vote on two days' notice in hopes of short-circuiting opposition.

Although the strike could be quickly won were union auto workers to refuse to handle the scab parts manufactured by Accuride, UAW officials have instead repeatedly tried to force workers to surrender. At one point, the International cut off strike benefits – including medical coverage – for 14 months. Workers protested outside the UAW International's Solidarity House in May 2000 and the benefits were restored four months later. Officials then removed the union's elected officers. Recently they cut strike benefits in half.

The Accuride plant produces wheel rims used in SUVs and pickup trucks made at General Motors' Janesville, Wis., plant and Ford's Louisville plant. It also is a major supplier to Navistar, the truck and agricultural implement maker. It is one of the few remaining unionized parts operations – 80 percent of parts workers are now nonunion.

"Scab Boulevard"

BY CRIS D'ANGELO

Fifty striking members of Teamsters Local 79 struck against Group Technologies in Tampa, Florida Oct. 19. A week later Group Tech president Jim Cocke fired all the striking union members, some of whom had been with the company as long as 30 years.

Workers struck when mid-contract wage reopener talks stalled. Thelma Leeper, a union steward who has 12 years with Group Tech, said the company offered a 45-cent wage increase, which would barely allow the workers to break even. The union had made concessions previously because the company was struggling.

Forced overtime is also an issue. "They want you to work seven days a week mandatory," said Leeper.

Group Tech makes military equipment, including missile parts and communication devices. In August Group Technologies announced it had been awarded a General Services Administration contract for Professional Engineering Services, estimating the award to be worth \$20 million over five years.

Now that the company is profitable, workers are threatened with the loss of a paid holiday, as well as increases in their health insurance that would double workers' premiums the first year and triple them the second year. The company also proposes raising workers' co-payments for doctor visits.

The pension is another sore spot. Unless workers opt to join the 401K plan there is no pension, and the company matches only 3% of what an employee pays into the plan.

What do they call the supervisors who park themselves on the roof at Group Technologies with lawn chairs and binoculars? All day – every day – they sit up there and watch the strikers on the picket line, when they should be inside the plant, supervising scabs who are assembling missiles and communication devices.



IWW directory

Australia

IWW Regional Organising Committee PO Box 1013, Collingwood 3066. roc@iww.org.au www.iww.org.au

Melbourne GMB: PO Box 145, Moreland VIC 3058. melbourne@iww.org.au

New Zealand

PO Box 5407, Dunedin, Aotearoa (New Zealand). iwwgmbdunedin@e3.co.nz

British Isles

IWW Regional Organising Committee PO Box 4414, Poole BH15 3YL

Pioneer Cooperative Retail Society Job Branch & General Distribution Workers IU 660 c/o Regional Organising Committee.

Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620: Kevin Brandstatter, del., 9 Omdurman St, Swindon SN2 1HA. 01793-610707

Canada

Alberta

Edmonton GMB: PO Box 1075, T5J 2M1 iww-edm@iww.ca http://edmonton.iww.ca

British Columbia

Vancouver IWW: PO Box 4755, Stn. Terminal, V6A 4A4. 604-682-3269 x8493

Victoria GMB: PO Box 8283, V8W 3R9. 250-360-9803 vicwob@hotmail.com

Manitoba

Winnipeg GMB: IWW, c/o WORC, PO Box 1, R3C 2G1.

Ontario

Ottawa-Outaouais GMB: Peter Timusk, Sec., 701-151 Parkdale Ave., K1Y 4V8. email: ptimusk@sympatico.ca French-language del.: Mathieu Brûlé parti_hardcore@yahoo.com

Toronto GMB: PO Box 108 Stn P, M5R 2S8. toronto.gmb@iww.ca

Germany

IWW c/o Barrikade, Bismarckstrasse 41a, D-47 443 Moers. Daniel Zimmerman, del., syndikat-a@fau.org

Ireland

PO Box 178, Cork. iww@ireland.com

United States

Arizona

Phoenix GMB: c/o Aaron, 1309 S Farmer Ln,

Tempe 85281. aaron@iww.org 480-303-9580.

California

Los Angeles GMB: PO Box 207, San Pedro 90733-0207. 310-831-6023

Mendocino County: Bill Meyers, del., PO Box 1581, Gualala 95445.

Monterey: Ray Brown, del., 1231 4th St, 93940. 831-333-9803.

San Francisco Bay Area GMB & IU 670 Recycling Job Branches: PO Box 11412, Berkeley 94712. 510-845-0540. Steve Ongerth, del. intexile@iww.org San Francisco office: 415-863-WOBS

San Jose: Adam Welch, del. pager: 408-795-9672 email: adam_freedom@yahoo.com

Santa Barbara GMB: PO Box 23008, 93121. John Baranski, del., sbgmb@yahoo.com

Colorado

Denver: P&L Printing Job Shop: 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303-433-1852.

District of Columbia

Washington DC: Ground Zero GMB, PO Box 1187, 20013.

Georgia

Atlanta: 673 Wylie St., 30316.

Hawai'i

Honolulu: PO Box 11928, 96828. Mike Long, del., 808-396-1078 mlong@hawaii.edu

Illinois

Chicago GMB: PO Box 465 Ave., Evanston 60204. del.: michaelhargis@netscape.net

Indiana

Bloomington: Phil Leflar, 202 N. Walnut St, 47404. philipaf@ yahoo.com

Kansas

Lawrence GMB: PO Box 176, 66044. 785-830-0120 breezels@ku.edu

Kentucky

Louisville: Ben Fletcher GMB, P.O. Box 1313, 40201.

Louisiana

New Orleans GMB: c/o Jeffrey Brite, 2513 Carondelet St., 70130. jbrite@acadiacom.net

Maine

Norumbega GMB: PO Box 3343, Lewiston 04243. Jim Ellsworth, del., 207-626-5388. jimells@mint.net

Michigan

Grand Rapids GMB: PO Box 6629, 49516. griww@earthlink.net

Minnesota

Duluth GMB: c/o Laverne Capan, 1522 N 8th Ave E, 55805-1115.

Minneapolis/St Paul GMB: 1708 E 26th St, 55404. Dels. Sam Adams 612-724-9158, Andy Gifford, 870-9168, Don Kurth 869-4139.

Missouri

St Louis GMB: P.O. Box 11551, 63105 Del. Richard Burke, 314-849-3530. rburkemo@earthlink.net

Montana

Butte: Dennis Georg, construction IU 330 del. 406-494-5836 dengo@montana.com

New York

NYC GMB: PO Box 7430, JAF Station, New York City 10116, iww-nyc@bari.iww.org

Rochester

Rochester: Ric Garren, del., 716-385-6681.

Upstate NY GMB: PO Box 74, Altamont 12009. 518-861-5627. Rochelle Semel, del., 291 Bristol Rd, Hartwick 13348. 607-293-6489.

North Carolina

New Bern: Bruce Arnold, del., 1550 Trent Blvd #Q-4, 28560.

Ohio

Cincinnati: Mark Damron, del., PO Box 42233, 45242.

Toledo GMB: PO Box 20128, 43610 419-242-0563, UEIToledo@access Toledo.com

Oregon

Ashland: Forest Workers IU 120, Lomakatsi Restoration Treeplanters, PO Box 3084, 97520.

Lane County GMB: PO Box 371, Eugene 97401. iwwlu@efn.org 541-343-7828.

Portland GMB: PO Box 15005, 97293-5005. pdx@iww.org 503-796-3474.

Wisconsin

Organizer training program launched

BY JOSHUA FREEZE

The IWW Organizer Training Committee met for the first time Nov. 10-11. OTC members Bill Bradley, Alexis Buss, Joshua Freeze, Chuck Hendricks and John Hollingsworth spent the weekend in Philadelphia planning a program to help IWW members gain the skills necessary to be effective union activists.

OTC member Bradley explains, "Our members have tremendous dedication and energy. What they have told us they lack is specific education on labor organizing, and the OTC was created to address that need."

The mission of the committee is not simply to create a training department to run campaigns, but more importantly to facilitate the training of all interested members.

The ultimate program is to cover organizing of unorganized shops, winning demands, education to ensure strong branches, plus labor and employment law. The first section the committee chose focuses on helping Wobbs in nonunion jobs organize their workplace. The preliminary training will be held in Baltimore in February, where the OTC plans to hold its next meeting.

John Hollingsworth felt the weekend made a good start. "Important steps were made toward a program to educate our members about how to build unions in real terms where they work and where they live."

Between now and February, OTC members will produce workshop modules which they will use in their sessions and written materials to leave with members. Ultimately, they will create a section of the union that will provide training for members and their branches, and assistance with organizing drives unionwide.

Edmonton, Alberta

BY EUGENE PLAWIUK

The Edmonton General Membership Branch has been doing outreach via our literature table, which has become a mainstay at numerous events including the Alberta New Democrat convention which we were at last weekend. While this social democratic party has its left wing and union support, comments were made that it was nice to see a "left-wing" working-class presence at the convention, namely the IWW and our Lit table, rather than the politicians and labour hacks from the unions.

We will be at the Parkland Institute annual conference as well as at the annual Canadian Labour Congress/Alberta Federation of Labour annual week-long union school. The Parkland is a left-wing think tank in the province, and this year's conference is on Democracy and Dissent. Our presence there has always drawn in people to buy literature, be amazed that the Wobblies are around, and to discuss shop floor issues with us.

This will be our first year at the week-long union school, one of the key classes is labour history, taught as a history of radical labour in Alberta with emphasis on class struggle not just union-building. The role of the IWW and OBU, as well as the significance of the 1919 general strike, leaves students coming out of the class convinced they need to rebuild the One Big Union. Our table will help reinforce that message.

The Student Worker Action Group on the University of Alberta campus organized a mass demonstration against yet another tuition increase that got good coverage in the main stream media as well as in the student press. The protest was held early in the morning during the Board of Governors meeting. While the tuition increase passed, the protest focused on the fact that this is not the last such increase expected and mass mobilization is needed to defeat this attempt to restrict access to public education through user fees aimed at limiting working class families from attending.

We have had two organizing meetings of the Spanish Civil War Memorial committee which has reached out successfully to many groups and individuals. Response to this project of building a memorial for forgotten Alberta veterans of the Spanish Civil War has been overwhelming and positive.

The May Week Committee is already planning for next year's May Week Festivities and the IWW is very influential on this committee as we are with the Alberta Labour History Institute.

G8 demo organizing has Wobs active in planning for actions around the G8 meeting in Kanaskis Park here next June. 2002 looks like an active year for all of us.

Maine GMB makes strong public debut

The IWW's new Norumbega GMB made a big splash at the annual Common Ground Fair in late September, with a busy literature table, a full tent for their presentation "What's Democratic About Capitalism?" and boisterous singing of Wobbly and other labor songs.

The branch received a "Special Friend of the Fair" award, with fair organizers explaining that they had come by to check out the commotion surrounding the IWW booth, only to find people singing and smiling and having a good time. They sold \$646 worth of bumper stickers, buttons, books, music and pamphlets, getting out the Wobbly message and bolstering the local branch treasury.

Southern Web Fest

Gather in Austin, Texas, December 7-9. Workshops will address recent organizing in the nonprofit sector, solidarity campaigns, direct action on the job, contingent labor, organizing the south, and other topics. Saturday evening will feature entertainment; local and IWW labor videos will be showcased Sunday evening. For information call 512-467-7360, email lucyparsons@io.com, or write: IWW, POB 650011, Austin TX 78765.

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalist, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



PHOTO: ROBERT HOPPER

iYo No Quiero Taco Bell!

BY MIKE HARGIS, CHICAGO

About 20 workers from the Mexico Solidarity Network, Direct Action Network and Industrial Workers of the World picketed the Taco Bell at Western and Addison Streets, Chicago, Nov. 4 for two hours in support of the boycott of Taco Bell initiated by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a Florida-based farmworkers union.

The CIW workers pick the tomatoes served at Taco Bell. The farmworkers want to pressure Taco Bell to pay 1 cent more per pound of tomatoes so that the farmers won't have the excuse of low prices for their tomatoes for their refusal to give those who do the work a living wage. Wages in the Florida tomato fields have been stuck at 40 cents per 32-pound bucket since 1978.

As members of DAN sat down in the driveway, other members of the Chicago Taco Bell Boycott Committee (which IWW members have been active in since its inception

in June) waved signs, chanted and handed out leaflets to passing motorists and pedestrians explaining what the action was about and asking for support of the boycott.

Activists who went into the store to talk to Taco Bell workers and management found support among the workers who complained about their own lousy working conditions and pay (\$5.35 per hour). There also seemed to be much support from motorists who honked their horns in support and shouted out a curse or two against Taco Bell.

Complaining that drive-through business was down 50 percent, management called the cops who asked the folks sitting in the driveway to move. The sitters complied since we were getting ready to leave anyway. We are planning on keeping up the pressure and will return to this Taco Bell Nov. 14th.

For information on the campaign, visit the CIW web site at www.ciw-online.org.

Join the IWW Today

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially – that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers' ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

We are a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses' orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member-run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

TO JOIN: Mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and your first month's dues to: IWW, Post Office Box 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Initiation is the same as one month's dues. Our dues are calculated according to your income. If your monthly income is under \$1,000, dues are \$6 a month. If your monthly income is between \$1,000 - \$2,000, dues are \$12 a month. If your monthly income is over \$2,000 a month, dues are \$18 a month.

- I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer
- I agree to abide by the IWW constitution
- I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

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Occupation: _____

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Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker.



U.S. jobless rate soaring

The U.S. unemployment rate continues to rise, and many jobless workers are being forced to turn to food banks to fend off starvation.

Nearly 500,000 lay-offs have been announced since Sept. 11, and the Labor Department said the number of Americans getting state unemployment benefits during the last full week of October was at an 18-year high.

The official unemployment rate is now 5.4 percent – a figure that does not include workers forced into part-time work or who have given up looking for jobs. The figures are far worse than most economists had predicted, and were described as “recession-like” by Maury Harris, chief economist at UBS Warburg in New York.

In Massachusetts, a study by Project Bread finds that food pantries around the state have seen their caseload climb by 18 to 46 percent over the last year. “We are seeing a real acceleration of people out of work,” the executive director of Project Bread told *The Boston Globe*. “Our calls are practically doubled, and we are looking at a real crisis among low-income children in the state.” The number of children being referred to hospitals in the state for severe malnutrition is also skyrocketing.

However, the situation is not uniformly bleak.

Drive to federalize airport security stalls on unionization

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

While federalizing airport security has become a hot topic these days, some politicians protest that “nationalizing” airport jobs would open the door to union representation. House Majority Leader Dick Armey, a Republican from Texas, opposes a bill (the Aviation Security Act) that would put airport security under government control because, as he groused on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” federalizing many airport jobs “would amount to a new jobs programs for unions.”

Ohio Senator George Voinovich and Texas Congressman Tom DeLay agreed, the former saying that federalizing airport security would be tantamount to a “New Deal, Great Society-type” program that would soon be “swelling the ranks of public-service unions.” The fear amongst the union-busting right is that public sector workers, who are represented by unions to a greater degree than their private sector counterparts, would immediately organize.

If baggage screeners become government employees, that will mean 28,000 more dues-paying members for some union,” the *Wall Street Journal* complained in a Nov. 7 editorial. Apparently, *Journal* editors don’t like the fact that unions might provide job security. “Anybody who has ever dealt with a government union knows how hard it is to fire public employees for anything,” the editorial grumbled. “They’d almost have to hijack the plane.”

The workers who could be federalized include pre-board baggage screeners, exit guards, sky caps and wheelchair agents. These jobs are notorious for their low pay, horrible conditions, and lack of benefits. Most of these services are now provided by private companies such as Argenbright Security Services, a large donor to the Republican Party, which has a contract with the Los Angeles airport among others. Airports contract their security services out to the lowest bidder, who in turn supply them with poorly paid employees. Critics argue that because these ill-treated workers do not care about providing the sort of security that might have prevented the Sept. 11 airline hijackings.

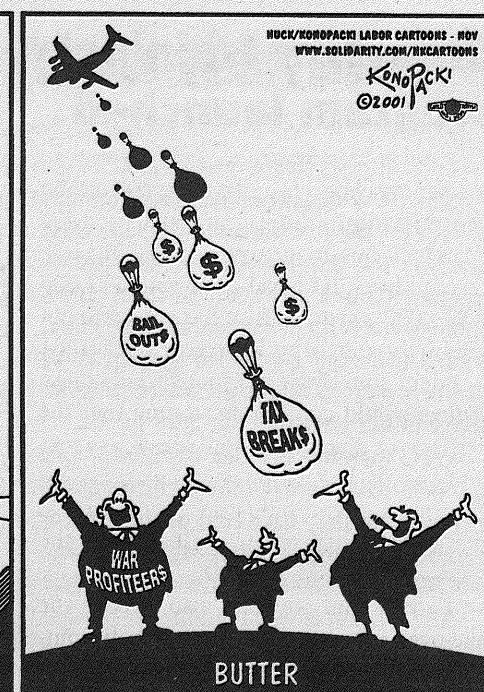
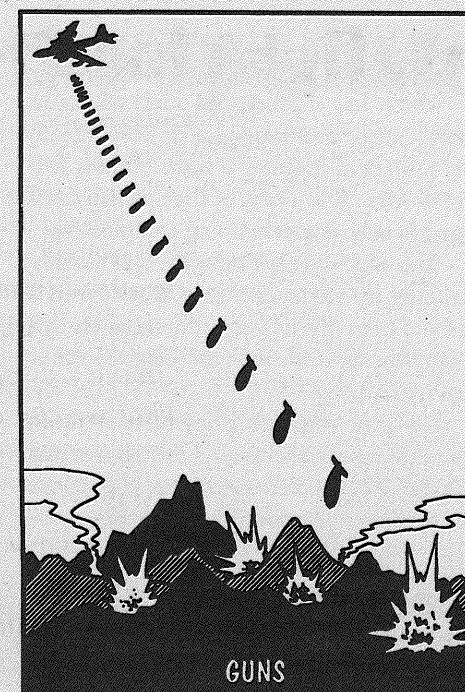
The SEIU successfully organized Argenbright workers at the LAX airport, and now represents 790 workers there, including baggage screeners. Ironically, because of this the

General Motors, IBM and Kmart are among corporations that would receive billions of dollars in tax refunds under a \$100 billion House Republican economic-stimulus package introduced in November.

Seven companies would get a total of \$3.3 billion in refunds of alternative minimum taxes they paid as far back as 1986, according to a Nov. 3 Associated Press report. The tax, which the legislation would repeal outright, is intended to ensure a basic minimum income tax is paid by companies and individuals that claim numerous deductions and credits.

IBM would get a \$1.4 billion refund, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. GM would get \$832 million, Kmart \$102 million and General Electric \$671 million. Others specified for big refunds include energy giant Enron, at \$254 million; U.S. Steel, \$39 million; and grocery chain Kroger, \$9 million. Ford would get a refund that could total \$2.3 billion, while Chevron’s could reach \$314 million.

Counting repeal of the tax, corporations would get more than \$25 billion in tax relief from these minimum-tax provisions in 2002 alone. In addition, the bill would make permanent a temporary tax break for financial-services firms doing a lot of overseas business, providing them \$21 billion in tax relief over 10 years.



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General strike in Italy

No to the “not-guilty” verdicts against petrochemical managers at Porto Marghera. No to the budget law. No to the war.

These were the messages which workers shouted out to the government Oct. 19, as 10,000 workers belonging to the “base” unions (independent rank-and-file radical unions, generally governed through general assemblies) CUB, RdB, Unicobas, SLAI-COBAS and USI-AIT marched through the streets of Rome. The accompanying general strike lasted the whole day and was joined for the last three hours of their respective shifts by many members of the mainstream unions CGIL, CISL and UIL.

On Nov. 10, more than 100,000 people marched through Rome in an anti-war demonstration that included all political persuasions except fascists.

People marched, sang, danced and chanted their way in a multi-colored, bubbling river of bodies to the Circus Maximus where they were awaited by the words “NO WAR” written large in candlelight.

It was a huge contrast to the government-sponsored pro-war “USA-Day” spectacle at the ironically named “People’s Place” (Piazza del Popolo), where 20,000 well-heeled Forza Italia supporters and their friends from the other rightist forces spent the afternoon waving U.S. flags and taking part in a U.S. propaganda extravaganza with special appearances by “famous personalities,” all televised live at the behest of Berlusconi.

WTC workers seek unpaid wages

Day laborers hired to clear debris from office buildings surrounding the site of the collapsed World Trade Center have not been paid, some for up to two weeks of work.

Officials with the cleaning company, Milro Services Inc., say they are not responsible for paying the laborers; the company hired a subcontractor to do that. (After workers turned to the state for help, the subcontractor was located and said she would make arrangements to pay the workers.)

The day laborers are at the center of the mammoth cleanup effort in Lower Manhattan. They line up each morning for a day’s work. Escorted past barricades by police officers, they clear shards of glass, wipe soot off desks and sweep floors covered with ash and debris. They are promised \$60 for an 8-hour shift, \$90 if they work 12 hours – less than minimum wage. The buildings they clean include the offices of several city and federal agencies. Many of the workers are freshly unemployed from shops and delis near the trade center.

The complaints first surfaced when an organizer with the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health went to the hiring line to talk to workers about safety precautions; he heard an earful about how they were not being paid.

Their plug was pulled however, when TV chiefs switched the live coverage to the NO WAR march, which was deemed more entertaining – as it was. One of the liveliest sections of the march was provided by the anarchist area led by USI-AIT and the FAI, but which attracted several hundred “independents.” The USI sound system also proved to be a magnet as many joined in to dance their way to the music.

Namibian general strike

The National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) has called for a national general strike Nov. 16 to protest the U.S.-led bombing campaign against Afghanistan and privatization and mismanagement of state-owned enterprises.

The NUNW said that it expected more than 100,000 people to take part in the action which will focus on marches in a number of towns.

Postal workers say anthrax treatments vary by class

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

Postal workers have been complaining that there is a double standard at play with the anthrax scare. New York Metro Area Postal Union President William Smith is responding to demands from workers that extensive testing be done on employees, as has been done with U.S. congressmen. Workers want all the employees at six postal centers tested; this would cover the mail centers that anthrax-infected mail is suspected to have gone through. Until this is done, the facilities should be shut down, the union says.

“They did it for the senators, the congressmen,” Smith said. “They should do it for us just the same.” Many in the union point to the fact that anthrax scares in Congress mandate extensive bio-sweeps, the shutting down of facilities, immediate medical care and time off, even when no anthrax is ultimately found. For postal workers, the response is not nearly as prompt, extensive, or even guaranteed – even when anthrax is found.

Dennis O’Neil, a postal worker at the Morgan mail center in New York – a center found to contain anthrax on four sorting machines – says he is “scared and angry” that the facilities are still operating and that he and others are still required to come in to work while members of Congress or their aides receive intense treatment and time off.

His union has filed suit to keep the facilities closed until full decontamination sweeps can be done. The postal workers claim that if all the facilities named in the lawsuits were shut down, mail could be rerouted and delivered with only minor delays.

The National Association of Letter Carriers has information for concerned postal workers and mail users at www.nalc.org.

VW workers strike

All 16,000 workers at German automaker Volkswagen AG’s biggest factory in Anchieta, Brazil, struck Nov. 12 to protest VW’s decision to cut 3,000 jobs after workers rejected demands for a 15 percent pay cut and other concessions.

The ABC Metalworkers Union will attempt to negotiate directly with VW headquarters in Germany. The strike will cost VW production of some 900 cars per day, mostly Brazil’s best-selling compact model, the Golf. VW is Brazil’s largest automaker with 27 percent of the market.

Union leaders called the dismissals an act of “aggression, truculence, cowardice and terrorism.”

Students, unions, fight for Philly schools

continued from page 1

Edison also hopes to save money by privatizing school cleaning, maintenance and transportation, eliminating nearly 2,000 union jobs. Bus drivers and cleaning staff represented by SEIU Local 1201 earn \$12,000 to \$13,000 a year; Edison has vowed to cut costs in these areas by 30 percent. Local 1201 President Tom Doyle questions where those savings would come from, noting that the district pays 25 cents per square foot less than the norm in the city for cleaning private office buildings and industrial parks. "If you scale back by 30 percent, you'll never get the buildings cleaned," he said.

Parents and students also oppose the take-over, concerned that as a for-profit company Edison would cut extracurricular activities, arts and academics in order to strengthen the company's earnings.

"The very people voting to do this have starved Philadelphia for money for education," notes former School Board President Herman Mattleman. "There are only two ways for a private company to make money – increasing revenues or cutting expenses. Guess what they'll try to do here."

Although Edison runs 136 schools in 22 states, it has never operated an urban school

system. Under the proposal the company would be paid about \$40 million a year to manage the Philadelphia system.

Teachers flee Edison school

In San Francisco, where Edison took over a local elementary school coincidentally called Thomas Edison two years ago, the school is now mired in a deep crisis with teachers fleeing in droves, students falling through the cracks of Edison's nationally dictated curriculum, and parents deeply worried.

Frustrated by long hours, a rigid curriculum that emphasizes testing, and what they describe as a Big Brother atmosphere, more than half the teachers at Edison have quit. "We feel like we were disposable teachers," said physical education teacher Kathy Fleming. "They think that they can just plug anybody in – any human thing with a pulse – train them, and that's it."

This is the second year in a row in which a majority of teachers have quit the school. Edison requires teachers to work 205 days a year (a full month more than other San Francisco teachers), one Saturday a month, and long work days that leave teachers little time to prepare lessons or grade student work.

"It was exhausting for the kids and the teachers," said first-grade teacher Anastasia Crocker, who has left Edison. Edison teachers unanimously voted to unionize last spring, hoping to change the school's working conditions. But they were bound by a contract negotiated between Edison and the school district. Twenty-seven of the school's 33 teachers signed a letter asking the school board to intervene.

While it refused to negotiate, Edison announced it would shave half an hour a day off its schedule and pay teachers a 10 per-

cent bonus – but that was not enough to keep all but a handful of teachers from quitting.

Kindergarten teacher Alexandra Lenzer says the school's "totally prescribed" curriculum is what finally drove her away. "They literally give you a script with what you're supposed to say."

"At Edison it's like you're a robot," another teacher says.

Many teachers described a Big Brother environment. "Every few months somebody from Edison would come in with a clipboard to make sure you had specific things hanging up in your

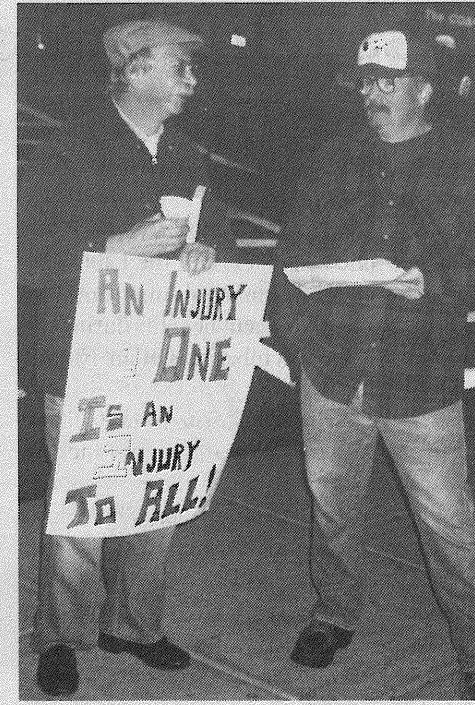
classroom," Lenzer said.

That doesn't surprise Bruce Fuller, a professor of education at UC Berkeley who does research on charter schools.

"Executives like (Edison chief education officer John) Chubb respond like Henry Ford in the nineteen twenties and try to run schools as if they were automobile manufacturing plants... It dehumanizes teachers and students."

Edison badly needs to expand operations to avert financial collapse. Its centralized curriculum and administration are expensive to administer, and the company has lost nearly \$150 million over the past five years. In an August 3 prospectus issued as part of efforts to raise new funds to keep the company afloat, Edison admitted that it was a risky investment.

Despite its claim that it can save the state money, Edison has historically spent far more per student than have public school systems, relying on grants and other external sources of funding. "We have not yet demonstrated that public schools can be profitably managed by private companies," Edison's prospectus concedes, "and we are not certain when we will become profitable, if at all."



Boston Wobs joined an Oct. 31 picket of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to protest the state's refusal to pay benefits to thousands of "part-time" faculty, many of whom work 50+ hours a week.

Part-time faculty demand equal pay

Adjunct faculty members demanded equal pay and better treatment in hundreds of demonstrations across the United States and Canada as part of Campus Equity Week Oct. 29 - Nov. 3.

Chicago-area demonstrators handed out peanuts – as in, they work for peanuts – to passersby, while part-time faculty from the Berklee School of Music and the University of Massachusetts rallied and presented a jazz concert in front of the Boston Public Library.

A union organizing campaign kicked off in Ann Arbor, Mich., and there were teach-ins and rallies at campuses across North America. In Columbus, Ohio Federation of Teachers president Tom Mooney said campuses have created "intellectual sweatshops" in their treatment of part-time faculty.

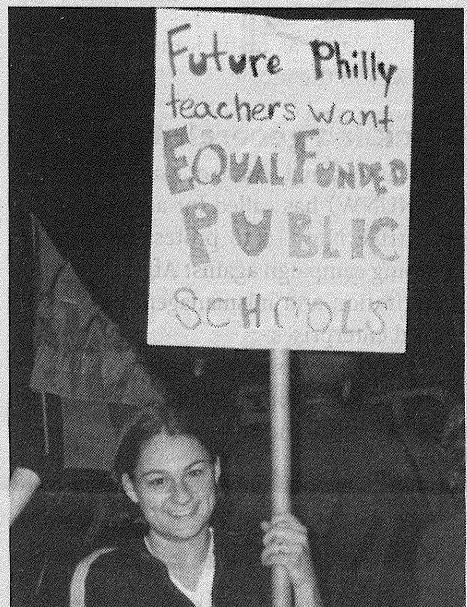
In Boston, the Coalition Of Contingent Academic Labor, in which IWW members have been active since its inception, released a Campus Equity Report Card grading 35 area colleges on their treatment of part-time faculty. The vast majority received failing grades, in most cases paying part-timers less than half as much per course as their full-time colleagues. Thousands of copies of the report card were distributed at area colleges, and some student newspapers ran articles on the issue.

In recent years, the percentage of college faculty classified as part-time has grown to 43 percent in 1998, according to a new U.S. Education Department study. Most institutions offer no benefits to part-timers. Nearly three-fourths earn less than \$3,000 per class, or less than \$20,000 a year, according to a new report from the American Federation of Teachers.

Union carpenters demand the vote

Rank-and-file carpenters in local 44 (Champaign, Ill.) are fighting back against the dictatorship of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' national and regional bureaucrats. Members attempted to approve a resolution to allow members an advisory vote in the selection of their representatives, only to see local 44 President Jack Peterson rule the motion illegal. He then adjourned the meeting when members pursued their democratic right to challenge the chair's ruling.

Rank-and-file reform candidates recently captured all four delegate seats to the Carpenters' state convention. Carpenters and Millwrights are fed up with the dictatorship of Doug McCarron, UBC General President, and the antics of leaders who no longer even pretend to represent those who toil to pay their huge salaries and benefits.



Ventura attacks workers' right to strike

BY STEVE ARGUE

Beating back Minnesota Governor Jesse "the Body" Ventura's "final offer," government workers have gotten a better contract proposal by going out on strike. While the contract is not yet ratified by union members, union officials have already returned the membership to work.

Now Ventura is saying he will cut jobs and needed government programs because of the strike. In addition, on October 22nd, Ventura stated that government workers should not be allowed to strike.

Ventura had warned striking workers of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees that they would lose their jobs if they didn't give into his demands.

The workers on strike included highway maintenance workers, janitors, tax collectors, and office clerks. Also included in the union are parole officers. The strike started Oct. 1 and lasted two weeks.

Ventura claimed that workers would have to be laid off if he gave in to their demands because there would not be money to pay them. Peter Benner, AFSCME local 6's executive director, responded, "There are layoffs in good times. There are layoffs in bad times. So this doesn't deter us."

Ventura has now repeated this threat, claiming the money isn't there to keep the workers. AFSCME Local 6 refutes this claim, citing the government's own budget records. Instead this looks like retaliation against workers who stood up against concessions. If Ventura gets away with it social programs will suffer as well from his cuts.

The 28,000 striking workers were forced out on strike by the governor's concessions

demands, which included increased health care costs for workers. Also included was a small cost of living increase of 3.8% in the first year and 2% in the years after. These cost of living increases would have been offset by the new health care costs.

The new contracts coming up for a vote include a 3.5% increase this year and next year for AFSCME members and a 3% increase both years for MAPE members.

What was obvious with the governor's earlier proposal was that workers would pay a lot more for health care. What the proposal left unclear was how much more. The clinics that workers use would be rated first, second and third tier with different tiers charging different amounts. But since the clinics were not even rated yet, union members had no way to know what their health care cost increases would be.

Under the new proposal the clinics are now rated. Workers will now know how much more they will be paying and be able to weigh that when they vote for or against the contract. In addition MAPE employees will get a one-time payment of \$250 to help offset increased health care costs.

Over all the contract is better than the earlier proposal, but still charges more for health care than previous contracts. The contract comes to a vote in mid-November.

Gov. Ventura cited the war as why workers should accept the earlier concession contract. On Oct. 4 Ventura stated, "Personally, I would be going to work because it's a tough time. We're going to war, in my opinion. Everybody has to bite the bullet a little bit."

In times of war and economic crises the capitalist class always wants workers to pay the price while the capitalists live in their mansions of luxury. Ventura's anti-union war

drumming places him squarely alongside the ranks of the anti-worker politicians of the Democrat and Republican parties.

Teamster truck drivers refused to cross picket lines. Yet deeper union solidarity could have ended the strike quickly and resulted in a better settlement. In the mid '90s Gov. Arne Carlson's plan to call out the National Guard against bus drivers was thwarted by the Teamsters telling him that they would call a general strike if he did. This type of action, flexing union power against state power, should have been repeated.

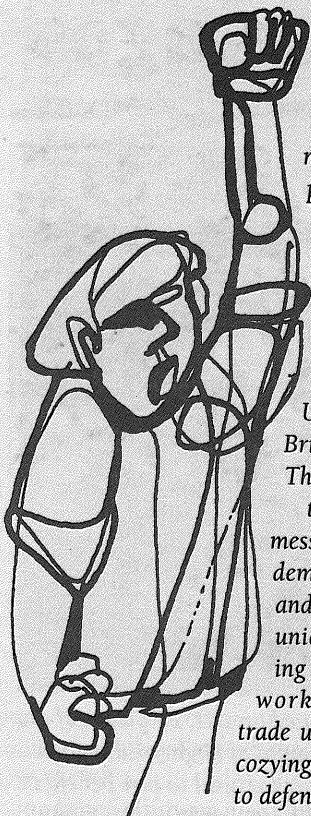
Minnesota state workers stood in the front lines defending workers' standard of living against the ideological onslaught of the government, telling workers to sacrifice for the profits of the rich in a time of war. They deserve our solidarity, and our thanks.

Workers losing ground in Ontario

The average union contract in Ontario now runs nearly three years, up from two years a decade ago, according to data from the Ontario Ministry of Labour. The ministry says the trend may suggest better labor-management cooperation and a greater "willingness on the part of both parties to seek industrial stability."

Nestle Canada is pleased with its recent five year contract. "It's a trend (long-term deals) we would like to see continue," says their human relations director.

But workers take a dimmer view of such agreements, which tie workers' hands with no-strike pledges, and no way to protect themselves against speed-ups, job cuts and falling real wages.



The following reports are reprinted from *Shopfloor*, a newsletter issued by IWW General Distribution Workers Industrial Union 660 in the British Isles. They demonstrate that the IWW's message of militant, democratic, rank-and-file industrial unionism is striking a chord among workers weary of trade unions too busy cozying up to the bosses to defend workers.

Fighting back vs. low pay

Recently there have been some shows of strength by supermarket workers, once again showing that collective action is the only way we can achieve anything.

Tesco stores in the south of Ireland were affected by one-day stoppages on 29 June and 5 July over the issue of "abysmally low" pay. (In Ireland, Tesco aren't represented by USDAW, by the way, before you start to get dizzy.) The stoppages involved thousands of workers and cost Tesco several million pounds in profit.

This proves the value of unions for shop workers, but we need unions that we control ourselves at store level, and are interested in fighting the bosses instead of selling us credit cards and financial advice....

Spare a thought...

While issue 1 of *Shopfloor* focussed on the failure of unions to look after their members and the farce of partnership deals, spare a thought for those of us working in non-union supermarkets.

The sad fact is that in many of the smaller shops and stores most workers are not in unions. I work for Iceland, a decidedly anti-union company. The problems I have seen at store level are:

A great increase in the number of people who work full-time hours, but are employed only on a part-time contract. This means that although workers might depend on 37.5 hours per week, they are in reality guaranteed as little as 8 hours.

Since they are part-time workers under law, the management is not obliged to pay premium rates for Sundays, public holidays etc. In the store I work in, only the store manager and the three supervisors have full-time contracts.

The supermarket has become, or so it seems, the first choice job for students. Not to tar all student workers with the same brush, but when I have talked about a union with co-workers, the majority of whom are students, the common refrain is "what have we got to complain about? We won't be doing this in two or three years time."

I am currently the only trade union member on my job, and only then for the legal protection in case of accident or disciplinary issues. In any case, it is imperative that student workers realise they are being exploited as a cheap alternative to giving out too many full-time contracts.

With workers working part-time so much, we don't see a lot of each other. This removes the sense of solidarity that comes from working together all day every day.

More and more the line between boss and worker is being blurred, particularly with the introduction of the "team" concept.

If I call in sick, I let down the "team." This is the notion that the workers of one supermarket have common cause with their bosses against the bosses and workers of

another chain.

With so many people on precarious contracts it's easy to see why they might believe that if they help put the "competition" out of business their jobs might be more secure.

I have also witnessed a disgusting "cosying" of relations between workers and the boss, people lending the boss money for lunch, being asked for money for a manager's leaving gift (yes, I refused) etc.

You don't need a trade union for the best financial advice there is: Fire Your Boss!

The bin man returns

Readers of *Bread and Roses*, the UK IWW journal, may have read about the Co-op (a grocery chain) area manager who, suspecting that workers were dishonest and hiding things in the skip outside to steal later, turned the skips inside out in search of hidden items.

Well not that long ago he came back and once again searched through the skips looking for the odd packet of crisps or sweets that staff might have hid with the intention of stealing later.

Staff at the New Milton store are no longer allowed to put items by unless they purchase them before (which they have to do in their breaks or before or after their shifts), as this, higher management believe, might lead to staff theft.

Part of the role of higher management is to oversee the smooth running of the system of legalised robbery of workers that goes on in all firms for capitalism to operate.

That is bad enough but when these semi-parasites then accuse us of stealing it's a bit much. In protest we are running a campaign to persuade staff not to shop at the Co-op, or at least not at stores where this level of mistrust exists....

Maybe next time the area manager comes to search through the skips he could have an accident and fall in, at least then he will be in the right place.

It's an insult!

The wage review for Co-op workers took place last May. The settlement is supposed to be negotiated with the shop workers union but in reality USDAW have very little power or interest in protecting their members.

This year's wage increase was a miserly 2.6% and in our store (New Milton, Hants) there was no ballot held for USDAW members to vote on the offer. The wage rates for Co-op workers are falling so far behind the rate paid in the leading supermarket chains that recruiting staff is difficult.

For example there is supposed to be a lower wage rate for those under the age of 18, however this is now so low that retaining staff in this age group is near impossible.

The last group of under-18s taken on at the New Milton store were put on the adult rate. This caused concern to some adult workers who saw their differentials disappear, but the aim should be to raise wages of all shop floor staff to a reasonable level.

USDAW are interested in little else than retaining the check off system that deducts union subs directly from their members' wages and thus keeps the money flowing in to the union coffers.

They are interested in promoting partnership agreements with employers. Thus the union whose main aim should be to promote their members' interests takes on the role of promoting the interests of the company, to retain their position rather than fulfil their traditional role.

We would like to hear from workers in other Co-op stores and from other supermarket chains about their experiences and how they feel we should go about building collective organisation whose only purpose is to promote the interests of shop workers.

Pitfalls of Partnership

A headline in *Trade Union Review* (August/September 2001) reads, "USDAW Ne-

gotiates Pay Cut." The article concerns a job evaluation scheme in a subsidiary of Morrisons near Bradford.

Shop stewards were called into the office and told a pay reevaluation had been agreed between USDAW and the company.

This meant that whilst 70% of the workers would receive a small increase, 30% would have their pay cut, in some cases by over £1 an hour.

When objections were raised by the shop stewards they were told that USDAW had already agreed and a ballot was due to take place to ratify the deal. Prior to the ballot the work force were circulated with a joint letter by the USDAW full-time official Pauline Foulkes, and the Managing Director Mr Hutchinson. In it the union unanimously recommended acceptance of the proposals.

The shop stewards did not recommend the offer but instead tendered their resigna-

There are of course many items in the worker/employer relationship for which we do not have easy answers. In the IWW we believe that the union is the membership, for without members there could be no union. It is not our job to appoint highly paid officials and allow them to make decisions on behalf of the membership.

We oppose unions like USDAW because we do not believe in negotiating deals over the heads of the members, we are against partnership agreements with employers. We have no interests in cosy relationship with our bosses.

We do believe in a union in which the members themselves make the decisions. The article in *TU Review* highlights the mess that unions can get themselves in when they are more concerned with partnership deals with employers rather than defending their members interests.



tions. A substantial number of the work force resigned from the union.

One of the shop stewards is quoted as saying: "I resigned on the 12th of March 2001, the reason being I felt I was treated unfairly by the union because they stated on the forms they handed to union members that I had endorsed the new pay deal which saw some of my co-workers take a pay cut and that I had recommended it to them, which is totally untrue."

What this situation does show is how unions in favour of partnership with employers show little concern for the interests of those they represent.

They are so interested in retaining recognition and a check-off system which deducts union subscriptions direct from workers pay packet that they fail to take into account their members' views, even those of elected representatives. Deals, as in this case, are struck over the heads of the membership.

A union should exist for only one purpose and that is to act on behalf of its members. It should therefore be left up to the members whether or not to negotiate with employers on a job evaluation scheme.

To make that decision members have to have knowledge of the problems participation might bring. It is likely to be divisive and some workers will lose out. Therefore members would probably wish to decide upon under what conditions the union would pull out of involvement in the scheme and there would of course have to be regular report back meetings to the members.

If it was decided not to participate in negotiations over a job evaluation scheme the decision the membership would have to take is how they could deal with the problems that would arise from a scheme which management would put in place. Much of this would depend on the strength of union organisation but at least that organisation would be in a healthier state than the situation that USDAW found themselves in.

If you are fed up with paying fairly high dues to unions which fail to represent workers interests or are in a nonunion situation which cries out for effective collective industrial organisation, just remember there is an alternative.

My disillusionment with the GMB - Why I chose the IWW

Two years ago I was elected union rep in the GMB at the Littlewoods Home Shopping (LHS) branch in Sunderland. A short space of time later I had left both the job and the union.

LHS in Sunderland employed over 1500 staff in mostly high-pressure customer service/financial sales jobs, and around 85% were GMB members. Over the years the GMB secured many good conditions for workers (family leave in particular was very useful in a predominantly female work force), but change was soon to come in the shape of a "partnership" between the bosses and the union.

Initially, there was a natural feeling of suspicion on both sides, something we should have retained in hindsight. The union membership was sold the idea with promises of better relationships between us & them (indeed, an end to "us and them"!) including the creation of more reps across the many different shifts and departments.

I was one of about six new reps joining an already established "core" of reps who had been there, it seemed, since time began. At first, all went well and the combined effects of a glitzy PR campaign by both the union (whose idea this partnership was) and the bosses, and the increase in workplace reps helped secure a "yes" vote (about 60/40 in favour) to bring in the partnership. Then the cracks began to appear.

The first thing to happen was that the annual pay deal negotiations were put on hold from autumn 1999 to April 2000 to allow the new negotiation process to function

Sweatshop workers sue U.S. bosses

BY BRIAN OLIVER SHEPPARD

In October, over 20,000 workers on the island of Saipan prepared for a class action lawsuit against big-name clothing companies in operation there. Saipan is a part of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, near Guam in the Pacific Ocean, but is technically a U.S. territory since its capture by U.S. forces in 1944.

This unique political situation allows apparel companies in Saipan to avoid customs, duties, and other import restrictions when sending clothes to mainland USA for sale. However, much to the benefit of employers, Saipan is beyond the reach of federal labor law; workers in Saipan can be paid less than federal minimum wage and often complain of excruciating working conditions. In the meantime, the garments they produce can legally bear the "Made in the USA" label.

The US District Court of Saipan is overseeing the suit directed at big-name retailers such as the Gap, J.C. Penney, Target, the Limited, and Levi Strauss and Co. So far, 18 retailers have settled for \$8.5 million. Those settling include Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger. These companies have agreed to have their labor practices monitored by a third party in the future. Plaintiffs currently seek a total of over \$1 billion in damages from factory owners.

The work force of Saipan is comprised primarily of immigrant Chinese workers, who often have to pay exorbitant "hiring fees" deducted from their paychecks. They are then paid around \$3.50 an hour with little or no benefits while living in barracks-like conditions at their plant. Many workers suffer under a demerit system that indentures them to the company every time they act in "insubordination." U.S. congressmen such as Tom DeLay and Dick Armey support the territory's peculiar melange of laws that benefit employers and snub workers, saying it is a model for how truly free markets ought to work. DeLay called the island a "free market success" before a banquet crowd in 1999.

The disruption must go on...

continued from page 1

tributed over \$134,000 to the Tories between 1995-2000. The Bank of Montreal is also part of a consortium responsible for implementing the finger scanning of welfare recipients in Metro Toronto. In addition, the Vice President of the Bank of Montreal sits on the Health Services Restructuring Commission, a Tory-appointed body which has recommended the closure of ten hospitals in the Metro area.

The march also stopped at the corner of Bay and King Streets, an intersection which fronts four major banks. The Toronto Dominion Bank and Toronto Dominion Securities contributed over \$141,000 to the Tories between 1995-2000. The Bank of Nova Scotia and Scotia McLeod Inc. contributed over \$108,000 to the Tories between 1995-2000, while the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce donated over \$88,000 over the same period.

These are just a few of the reasons why the O16 march happened and why it made sense. The Common Front is continuing with its work building movements which can disrupt the capacity of the neoliberal Provincial government and their corporate backers to implement their harmful policies. O16 was a commitment to that work and an impressive beginning to a fall campaign of economic disruptions in the province. By interfering with "business as usual" among Tory backers like the major banks and real estate developers the Common Front served notice that a new movement is on the rise in Ontario, one which takes struggle seriously and is prepared to fight to win against a government which answers only to its corporate bosses.

The war at home

BY CURTIS VAUGHAN

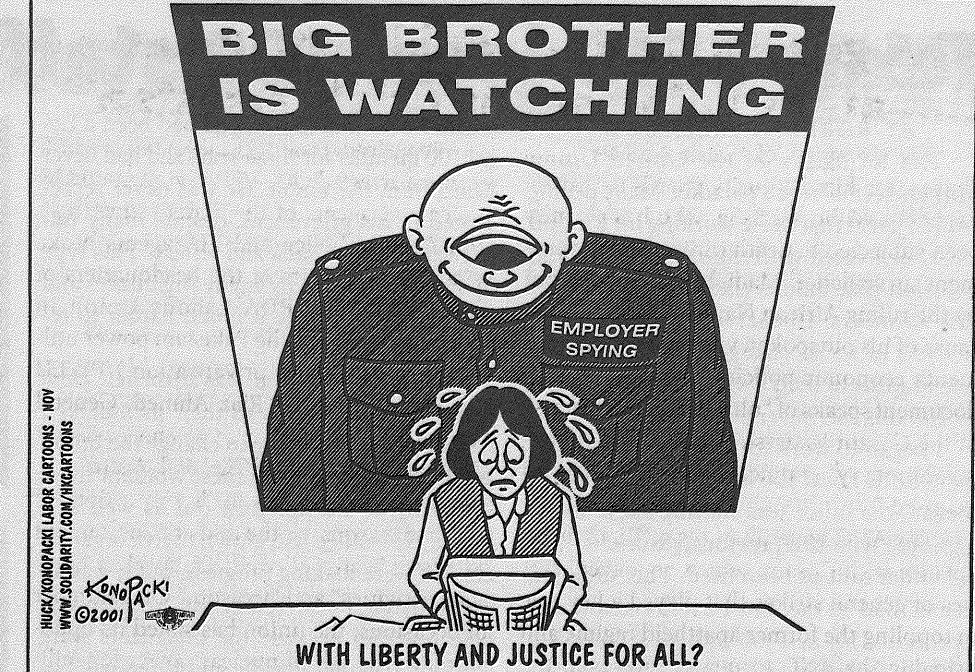
America is at war! It is a war being waged not only upon one of the poorest nations in the world, but also in the richest – right here at home. George Bush and Co. must be reeling in euphoria over the opportunities the terrorist attacks provided to gain an unprecedented level of control over the American political scene. Just prior to the Sept. 11 attack, President Bush had been suffering setback after setback, but now he has been all but anointed King George.

Particularly ominous has been the creation of the Office of Homeland Security. President Bush established this Cabinet-level body in order to establish a higher level of domestic policing and repression. Whereas the CIA was previously limited by law in its operations to external targets, now it may spy upon the American people.

Legislation enforcing the separation of the FBI and the CIA was enacted in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. This law was a direct response to the abuses of political power by U.S. President Richard Nixon, who had gathered intelligence information against domestic political activists.

Today, under the guise of "anti-terrorism," the attack upon American workers have reached new heights. The government has repeatedly issued dubious "terror alerts" which are later retracted without explanation. These alerts serve a direct purpose: fueling anxieties so that people will look to the government for protection. Random police searches, racial profiling, and the presence of National Guard troops at key "terrorist" objectives throughout the nation are becoming accepted features of American life.

The assault upon our rights has only begun. More than a thousand legal and illegal aliens are already being detained and held for indefinite periods without even being presented with the charges against them. The powers of police agencies to tap phone lines and other forms of communication, as well as to carry out searches and surveillance,



have been vastly expanded.

Furthermore, a new "anti-terrorism" act (the PATRIOT Act) was rushed through congress that defines terrorism in a manner that includes political activity and speech otherwise protected by the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution. The Secretary of State has been given the power to designate any group that has ever engaged in "violent" activity as a "terrorist organization." Such accusations have been used in the past to repress the IWW and other radical organizations. In this debacle of civil rights the media has, for the most part, kow-towed to the president.

Class Warfare

But the political aspects should not be separated from the economic. Class warfare is being directed against the working class. Since Sept. 11, more than 350,000 jobs have been lost. In the next three business quarters economists say as many as 1.5 million more workers may be put on the dole.

While Americans have made large donations to the victims of the attacks, regular contributions to charitable organizations have dropped proportionately. Welfare is proving a farce as unemployment soars to record levels and welfare recipients face a closed door. Meanwhile the U.S. government doles out billions of dollars to big business

in the form of direct subsidies and tax breaks in order to "stimulate" the economy.

The escalation of the war on Afghanistan and the persistent warnings of terrorist attacks within the U.S. serve to deflect public attention away from the faltering economy. Rarely can the government get away with such massive amounts of corporate welfare while businesses send thousands of workers to the streets. Big business is laughing all the way to the bank.

America vs The World

The WTO and other world financial and trade organizations are directly responsible for the plight of millions of people the world over. Of late the left has chronicled numerous reasons for the attack upon the U.S. But while most attention focuses on the military power the U.S. exercises throughout the world, it is not just our military that exemplifies this role. The power of U.S.-backed financial and trade institutions can be even more devastating than any military action.

Protests against the WTO occurred throughout the world Nov. 9, including many across Europe. In Russia union and left-wing activists had been mobilizing for this day as Russia's ruling class attempts to ensure the country's entrance into the WTO.

In an apparent effort to mobilize support, the government organized a tripartite committee with representatives of the government, unions and employers to analyze the effects of Russia joining the WTO. The resulting document, however, has yet to be made public, as it concludes that entry into the WTO would entail many negative aspects for Russian industry and the people.

The report predicts that within a year of joining the WTO, machinery and food production and production in other sectors of the economy would fall. This would have serious consequences particularly for the automotive, aviation and metal industries, leading to massive unemployment.

The social sphere would also face attack. Currently, the WTO is seeking to ensure the free movement of capital in the social sphere. Such changes have already been implemented in England and other countries, resulting in the privatization of educational institutions, hospitals, transportation, etc.

Government and business officials present entry into the WTO as an important opportunity; failure to do so, they say, would mean failure to be integrated into the civilized world and the world economy. Joining the WTO, however, will only give the government the opportunity to ram through regressive legislation they have long hoped for.

Thus, the International Day of Action had particular relevance for Russia. A small demonstration in Moscow was followed by the founding conference of the movement "The world is not for sale." Participants adopted a declaration calling for a world where the "global arbitrariness of corporations" and the new "sacred trinity" (WTO, IMF, WB) of financial institutions would make room for international democracy, where working people would have a voice and the riches of the world would serve the entire population.

Wobblies march on Toronto O16 to "Shut Down Bay St."

BY JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH

In spite of the events of Sept. 11 and the resulting mobilization for war on the part of the Western powers, it is encouraging to note that resistance by members of our class, necessary as ever, is still possible. In spite of a police presence that was both oppressive and often provocative, about 1,500 demonstrators from inside and outside of the province (including a sizeable contingent from Montreal) converged near Nathan Phillips Square in the dark early hours on the morning of October 16th, International Bosses' Day. The snake march marked the official kickoff of a province-wide campaign of economic disruption, targeting the bosses that are the beneficiaries and support base of the provincial government.

Although a massive presence of riot police, included mounted units, prevented arrivals after 6:00 a.m. from joining with their allies inside the Square for speeches and a pancake breakfast, both groups were later able to evade the security forces and separate snake marches throughout the vicinity of the financial district converged into one massive and militant presence. Traffic in the financial district was completely disrupted. BMWs, Lexuses, and other such luxury vehicles were selectively blocked by newspaper boxes, while their occupants were left to walk or engage in some manual labour to eventually continue on their way.

Fellow workers in the Welcome Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, some distance away from the main

action, reported that AM radio coverage all morning focused on the shutdown, advising people not to try and make their way into the financial district.

This was only superceded as the top story of the morning by the news that Mike Harris, notorious right-wing premier, would be stepping down as leader of the provincial Conservatives for "personal reasons." Activists speculated that perhaps the increasing heat for an inquiry into the assassination of native activist Dudley George, in which the Premier's office was implicated, increasing levels of active resistance to his government's regressive program, and an emerging recession in the Ontario economy may have also played an important role.

On November 15th, the Ottawa Coalition Against the Tories, our local coalition formed in support of the Ontario Common Front, will be doing its own action. We will begin with a rally at the War Memorial followed by a mass panhandle and squeegee in the heart of downtown Ottawa on Thursday morning. We are demanding the repeal of the so-called "Safe Streets Act." OCAT activists have also participated extensively in the organization of logistics and actions throughout the course of meetings by representatives of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and meetings of the Finance Ministers of the G20 nations on November 16-18th. The Ottawa-Outaouais GMB will be actively participating in these actions, and in continuing to build the anti-capitalist movement locally.

ANC government threatens unionists

The Congress of South African Trade Unions has hired security guards to protect President Willie Madisha, who has recently been subjected to death threats and government surveillance. Madisha was singled out by the ruling African National Congress because of his outspoken views on the government's economic policies. A top-level ANC document speaks of "ultra-leftist tendencies" in the Cosatu leadership who are "counter-revolutionary" and need to be "isolated and defeated."

The ANC government is officially in an alliance with Cosatu, which organized a series of general strikes that played a key role in toppling the former apartheid regime and bringing the ANC to power. However, the ANC has turned its back on South Africa's workers and poor, preferring to cut deals with international financial institutions.

Since he was elected Cosatu president in 1999, Madisha has been outspoken on issues such as AIDS, becoming a thorn in the side of South African President Thabo Mbeki. "Unless something drastic is done immediately it is reported that by the year 2010, AIDS will account for 67% of deaths in the country. We must urge our country to move away from a state of denial to a position where treatment of those infected will become paramount," he said recently.

At Cosatu's KwaZulu-Natal regional congress Madisha said workers were "people who know about poverty, who see their loved ones dying of AIDS. Are we counter-revolutionary if we talk about these things?"

Congo miners strike

Thousands of miners in the southern Congolese province of Katanga struck Nov. 5 to protest non-payment of their wages and corrupt joint ventures between the government and international companies.

More than a thousand angry miners and students took to the streets of the Democratic Republic of Congo's second city, Lubumbashi, to complain that the state-run Gecamines had cut all benefits and not paid them for five months.

Prospero Kahoba, president of the Gecamines Trade Union Association, said his members were incensed with a series of high profile joint ventures with international mining companies. He singled out one such initiative, involving the Zimbabwean firm Tramalt. Negotiated in January, this deal to extract cobalt from Likasi gave only 20% to the Congolese.

Since the late 1980s, Gecamines' earnings have collapsed, as massive corruption, incompetence and minimal investment have crippled its mines.

But it remains at the centre of a web of interests – of multinationals, of Congo's military allies, arms dealers and also of powerful Katangese, including several government ministers.

Bangladeshi government to lengthen work week.

The Bangladeshi government has announced plans to shift the weekend holiday to Thursday afternoons and the whole of Friday. Previously, the weekend holiday was the whole of Friday and Saturday.

The government says it introduced the changes to please the business community who complained that the country couldn't afford to have two full days off. They bring Bangladesh into line with many other Muslim countries.

Unions are protesting the move, saying that many workers will now have even less time with their families.

The scheme has also been criticized by some manufacturers, who want to cut the weekend holiday to a single day: Sunday. Many private business already make their employees work six days a week.

Pakistan: union officials arrested

Three leaders of Pakistan's electric workers were arrested Oct. 15 in a violent raid by police and agents of the Federal Investigation Agency. Police and FIA agents broke windows and doors at the headquarters of the Pakistan WAPDA Labour Union in Gujrat. (WAPDA is the Pakistani power utility, currently facing privatization.) PWLU President Choudhry Riaz Ahmed, General Secretary Pirzad Imtiaz Syed and Assistant General Secretary Syed Zia Ullah Azam were taken away, apparently for interrogation.

The reasons for the raid are unclear, but witnesses heard police officers speak of "anti-state activities" and "treason." On a number of occasions, the union has stated its opposition to the use of nuclear power for military purposes.

The police, who did not produce any warrants, searched the union's offices and took away its documents. A similar search was made at the General Secretary's home.

This was the second FIA assault on the PWLU headquarters within five months. On June 1, General Secretary Syed was arrested in an FIA raid during which a union staffer had his arm broken, computers and other equipment were smashed and the PWLU's files were seized. Syed was detained until June 12, when a judge ordered his release.

Pakistani unions against war

Under the slogan "Fanatic terrorism and imperialist aggression can only be decisively defeated through a class war," the Pakistan Trade Union Defence Campaign have launched a web site at www.ptudc.org.

Labor rights have long been under attack, but the situation has worsened with the war against Afghanistan. The PTUDC has condemned terrorism, but is also campaigning against the war inside Pakistan. Thus they face the wrath of both the state authorities and the Islamic fundamentalists.

Workers fed up with Labor Party

Australian Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union national secretary John Maitland says he and other union leaders are reconsidering their historic ties to the Australian Labor Party. "It's time now for more independence in the union movements," he said. "Unions have to take a clear independent line and not align themselves to any faction in the Labor Party."

Meanwhile, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union criticized the Labor Party, which recently suffered a stinging defeat, for pandering to the government's racist and xenophobic attitudes. AMWU national secretary Doug Cameron said Australians had trouble differentiating between the two main parties.

"The ALP's position on the refugees has left many supporters disgusted and demoralized," Cameron said. "The party simply sent a message that they would betray core principles of the Labor party – values which underpin our belief that we offer Australian working people a better opportunity, a better life, a better Australia."

106,700 Australian jobs lost

Some 106,700 full-time jobs have been lost since last July, and unions warn that thousands more job losses are expected in the near future.

Particularly hard hit have been women and young workers. More than 44,200 – or 78% – of the 56,800 full time jobs lost in September were women's jobs. The number of unemployed young people has jumped 40.8% in the last year, pushing the youth jobless rate to 26%.

The only jobs growth is in part-time work, which includes as little as one hour a week. These jobs are predominantly insecure, casual and low-paid positions.

Major League Baseball:

Sweatshop profiteers

The IWW in Pittsburgh joined Students Against Sweatshops from Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University and AFL-CIO printers' unions to throw the opening pitch in a campaign to engage Major League Baseball in the struggle to support the organizing rights of sweatshop workers around the globe.

Workers at the New Era plant in Derby, N.Y., have been on strike for 19 weeks against drastic wage cuts and deplorable health and safety conditions. Efforts to engage Major League Baseball through the Players' Association have failed. (Check www.workersrights.org for the gory details) Leafleting at the Cleveland 2001 Jobs with Justice Conference was the first time that sweatshop workers visited stadiums to meet baseball fans. Now it is time to hold MLB accountable via the massive amounts of corporate welfare they receive.

At a Nov. 9 meeting of the region's Sports and Exhibition Authority, the organization of appointed/public officials that pours corporate welfare into the trough for the major league sports teams, members of Pitt's Students In Solidarity testified on behalf of the New Era workers and their Bangladeshi counterparts, taking special care to point out the gross inequalities and unfair competition between them. We demanded that sports teams remove New Era merchandise from the stadium retail outlets until the strike is won.

MLB handles the distribution of its copyrighted logos in much the same way as our colleges and universities, through contractual agreements with labels and contractors. The total revenue of all the logos is then split

between the franchises.

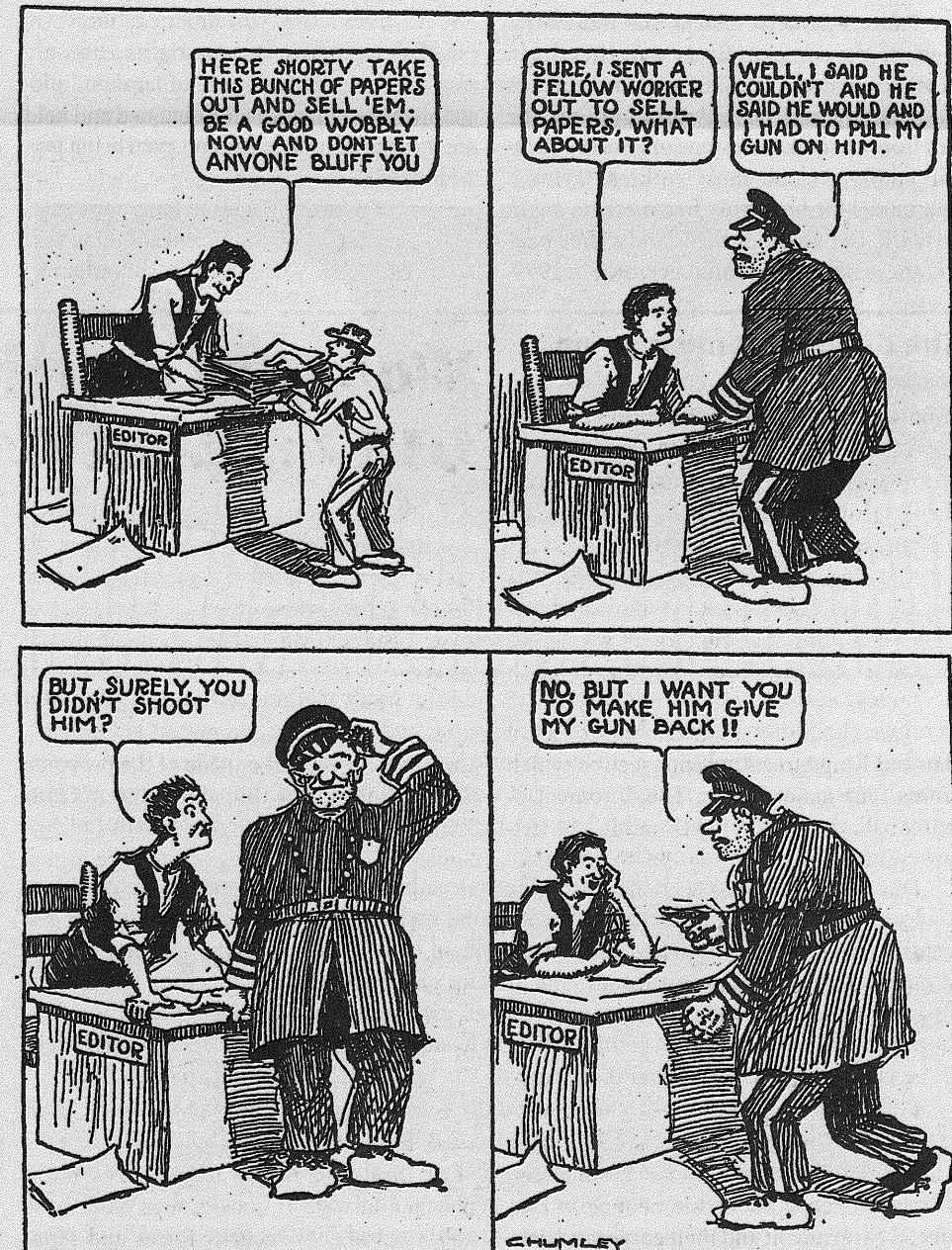
The Pittsburgh Pirates have refused to discuss the issue of sweatshop labor, instead referring activists to MLB headquarters. The Pirate's position is similar to that of the colleges and universities before students won their demands for full public disclosure of factory locations, codes of conduct that protect organizing rights, and independent monitoring of factory conditions.

Charleston 5 freed after 20 months

Felony riot charges against five South Carolina dockworkers, stemming from a labor dispute on January 20, 2000, in which police injured several workers, were dropped Nov. 8 after they agreed to plead no contest to a magistrate-level offense of "affray." When state attorney general Charlie Condon brought the riot charges he promised "jail, jail and more jail."

Longshoremen on the West Coast and in several other countries, including Spain and Australia, had planned to shut down the docks in a show of support on the first day of their trial, which had been scheduled for Nov. 14 after repeated delays.

The five dockworkers, who had been under partial house arrest for almost two years, paid \$100 fines. No penalties will be assessed against the attorney general who subjected them to two years of abuse or the hundreds of police who beat picketing dockworkers, sending several to hospital.



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Book Review: The CNT in the Spanish Revolution

The CNT in the Spanish Revolution, Vol. I, by José Peirats. Edited and revised by Chris Ealham. The Meltzer Press.

BY CARLOS CORTEZ

This comprehensive paperback of some 300 pages, presenting a history of the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo – National Confederation of Labor, is a long-overdue translation of the work by José Peirats and an important addition to the library of any class-conscious worker.

Founded in 1910 as a result of the need for coordinated effort on the part of the Spanish working class, the CNT rose out of an earlier general strike. From early on the organization affirmed its nonpolitical position,

making the CNT the ideological cousin of the IWW. This is most logical, as the institution of the state invariably looks out for the interests of the economically entrenched, aside from the long-standing tradition of anarchist sentiment on the part of Spanish workers.

The CNT managed to survive the brutal repression of the Primo de Rivera dictatorship up to the establishment of the Second Republic. Throughout various governments, socialist and otherwise, the CNT was still engaged in the economic struggle, of which this book goes into meticulous detail up to the rise of Generalissimo Franco, who was enthusiastically supported by Mussolini and

Hitler, besides being underhandedly supported by the capitalist "democracies" through their "non-intervention" policies and blockades.

The Franco forces were utterly defeated in Barcelona and Northern Spain due to the heavy concentration and influence of the CNT and the anarchists of the FAI. While the gates of Madrid were being besieged by the Franco forces, the industries in Barcelona, which were under the control of the workers of the CNT, were sending ammunition, vehicles and food to them, as well as taking in refugees, particularly women and children.

The CNT had its largest membership and strongest influence in the region of Catalunya, and it was the farmers in the countryside who, in the heat of war, were producing food not only for Barcelona but also for Madrid, as well as for other regions under heavy attack from the fascists.

Peirats goes into great detail about the collectives throughout the countryside and urban areas, not only in Catalunya but in other provinces as well. This volume alone proves the obvious feasibility of anarcho-syndicalist industrial unionism. He likewise writes of the colossal mistake of collaboration in the central government, as well as the stab in the back from the Stalinists who,

Joe Hill – Still dangerous...

The following editorial, reprinted from the Maple Ridge News, regarding a new high school curriculum developed by the British Columbia Teachers Federation, shows that Fellow Worker Joe Hill still strikes fear in the hearts of the boss class:

As teachers get ready to go on rotating strikes across the province to back demands for a 34% wage increase, they have a new tool in the struggle for public opinion.

This propaganda weapon is to be deployed in the high school classroom. It's a new lesson package called, "Youth, Unions and You", sponsored by the B.C. Teachers' Federation and the B.C. Federation of Labour. This lesson aid package fairly drips with self-serving bias, 1960s-era statist economic assumptions, 19th-century class warfare slang and a downright religious reverence for unions.

Parents can view it for themselves on the web at www.bctf.ca/LessonAids/online/la2039/ and they should be sure to check out the "global social justice" section to get the full flavour of the latest in union outreach to the young. The segment entitled "Labour

Songs" includes the words to "Solidarity Forever," which will soon be heard around local schools as the teachers once again try to shut them down for the sake of the students.'

There's much more: for instance a song penned by Joe Hill in 1912 is called "Where the Fraser River Flows." Students are to be informed that Hill wrote it in 1912 in solidarity with striking railroad workers in B.C., and that "his songs still inspire workers today." Here's a sample:

Now the boss the law is stretching
bulls and pimps he's fetching.
And they are a fine collection, as Jesus
only knows.
But why their mothers reared them
and why the devil spawned (sic) them
Are questions we can't answer,
where the Fraser River flows.

It uses the modern education establishment's standard approach to history: pluck a few incidents out of context, add class-warfare labels to reinforce an anti-capitalist, neo-Marxist agenda, heat to boiling and serve.

Dunkin' Donuts boycott continues

Sixty Dunkin' Donuts drivers and warehouse workers who have been striking since May decided to return to their jobs but continue their boycott.

New Jersey distribution center workers struck after enduring months of being harassed, unfairly fired, and cheated out of pay. However, the company was able to maintain operations with scabs. Workers continue to boycott the company's products as they await a decision from the National Labor Relations Board on several charges of unfair labor practices filed against Dunkin' Donuts.

The distribution center is operated by franchise owners and provides supplies to 1,400 shops in eight mid-Atlantic states.

Last year, a NLRB administrative law judge ruled that the center must halt unfair practices, rehire several employees, bargain with the union, and provide back pay. Rather than comply, the distribution center appealed the decision.

by their actions, proved they would rather see Spain under Franco than under workers control. After all, Moscow had much more in common with Franco, well illustrated by the fact that under Franco Spain's biggest trade was with the Eastern Bloc.

The book is well illustrated, with 24 pages of photographs including portraits of Buenaventura Durruti, Federica Montseny and other leading functionaries, but also of workplaces under workers control, women's militias, battle situations, and government repression.

This is but the first volume of three, and we eagerly look forward to the translation of the remaining two volumes. This book offers important historical lessons, and is highly recommended.

Facing lay-off, workers torch French factory

A fire set by disgruntled employees of the bankrupt kitchen appliance maker Moulinex damaged a factory in northwest France Nov. 12.

The action took place at the microwave oven factory at Cormelles-le-Royal in Normandy, which is one of several due to be closed as part of a take-over plan by Moulinex's rival SEB.

Fire trucks dispatched to the scene were blocked from entering the factory grounds, although two firefighters were eventually allowed to enter the building where they noted the location of potentially dangerous materials.

The 1,000 workers who have been occupying the plant since September had earlier threatened to blow up the factory. "Du Fric ou Boum" (Money or Boom) read a sign on the factory. "We have placed sulfuric acid, acetylene, gas and petrol at strategic points of the factory," an employee who did not wish to be named told AFP.

A firefighter said the fire was far enough away from where the employees said they had placed the dangerous materials, so there should be no risk of an explosion.

Negotiations on compensation between unions, management and the government were suspended earlier in the day when the government representative did not show up at a meeting.

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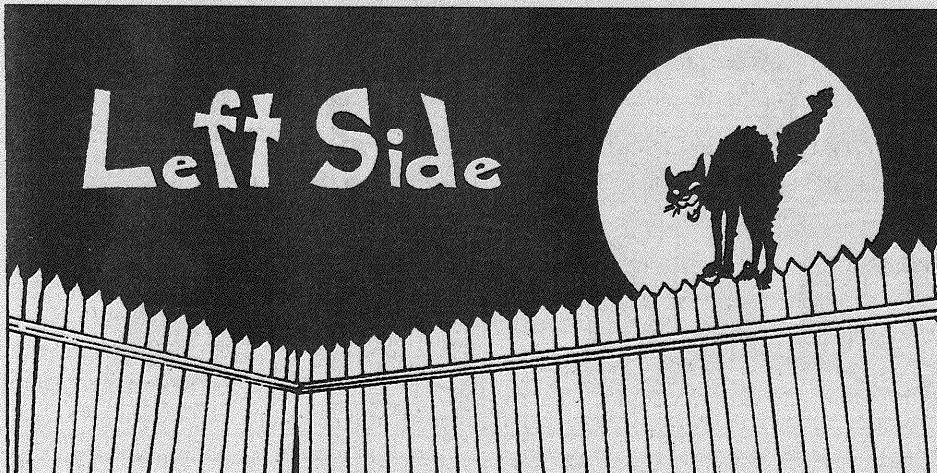
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I certify that all information on this form is true and complete.

Jon Bekken, Editor; Nov. 8, 2001



Budget cuts are a euphemism for increasing the profit margin. In the state of South Carolina, the Motor Vehicle Department did some budget cutting. As any driver knows, standing in line to apply for a driver's license is a long, drawn-out process even under normal times. Under the budget cutting, it can be well imagined, things did not get any better. An elderly gentleman who had the runs while waiting in line lost control of his bowels and left a big mess on the floor.

Due to the Department's having privatized the janitorial service, no janitors were around to clean up said mess. So the line of applicants, including the man in question and his daughter, were obliged to weave around the pile of crap for hours, as the resulting aroma further permeated the waiting room. The director of the office where this took place, who obviously was in his air conditioned office well away from the fragrance, waxed jocular: "You can't keep someone from getting a driver's license for incontinence." It takes no stretch of the imagination to figure that those who do the budget cutting do not stand in lines.

Budget cutting is but another example of the benefits of capitalism, and if anyone tried to tell you that capitalism is good, tell them to try telling that to a non-capitalist.

The debacle of Sept. 11 has given those chickens on the top further excuses for budget cutting, as well as massive lay-offs. Now that they have another war to fight, they want to be sure there are lots of unemployed stiffs who are willing to volunteer for their forthcoming bloodbath. Have a merry, merry Christmas!

This is the month when we supposedly honor the birthday of an early agitator who was rocking the boat of the Roman empire. The early Christians were in reality resisters to Roman imperialism, but unfortunately their movement got co-opted by the chickens on top, who knew they couldn't squelch them so they infiltrated and perverted the original aims. George Bernard Shaw was asked his thoughts on Christianity, to which he answered: "Sounds like a good idea; we ought to try it sometime."

Don't spend too much on Christmas gifts; you might need to buy a case of beer and a jug for New Year's Eve.

Draftees of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals (and a world to gain)!

— C.C. Redcloud

BOOKS FOR REBEL WORKERS

Some of our favorites...

Ani DiFranco & Utah Phillips Compact Discs

"Fellow Workers" isn't an album of alternative rock or folk pop by any stretch. Rather, it's a musical stage on which Phillips tells stories of the American workers' plight and their struggle for rights as the nation developed. And it's a bloody powerful tale he tells, shot through with hardship and death, corruption and plain dirty dealing, and the indomitable spirits of the men and women who refused to bow down and take less than they deserved...Ani DiFranco is the name that will get copies of Fellow Workers into people's homes and into their stereos. But it's Utah Phillips, her grizzled partner on this album, who will keep the CD playing...The album's 18 tracks were recorded in front of a live in-studio audience and, while it's a given they're already on the side of the performers, the crowd's reactions give the recording the feel of a folk benefit and workers' rally. Phillips' down-home style of singing and talking is a treat to hear, and little touches -- like when, in "The Saw-Playing Musician," he is diverted from one story to tell another and forgets where he was in the first -- add to the live, you-were-there feel."

-Tom Knapp, Rambles Cultural Arts Magazine

\$17.00

The Past Didn't Go Anywhere: Ani remixes Utah's stories from live recordings, this recording is a terrific marriage of electronic, beat-driven music and folktelling traditions. Shelly Poovey from North Carolina's Ha! Zine says, "The music is dark yet soothing on 'Bridges' where Utah claims "I can go outside and pick up a rock that's older than the oldest song you know, bring it back in here and drop it on your foot. Now the past didn't go anywhere, did it?", yet upbeat and hip on 'Mess with People' where Utah tells stories of hobos using rubber cockroaches to keep from paying for food or inspiring kids to get the best of their teachers. We hear Utah's concepts of time, history, anarchy, pacifism, and just about any other social abstraction you can conjure. It's definitely mind-candy for the socially conscious listener, luring you into healthy skepticism and levity of self. And it's damn good music at any level -- you'll discover new nooks and crannies to lay your head on every time you hear it."

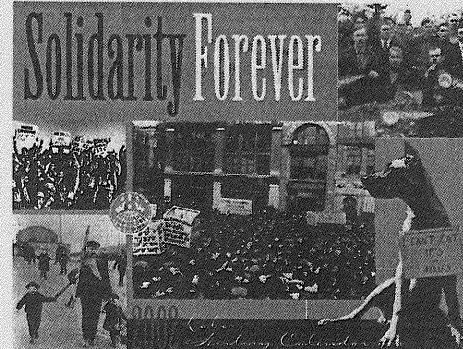
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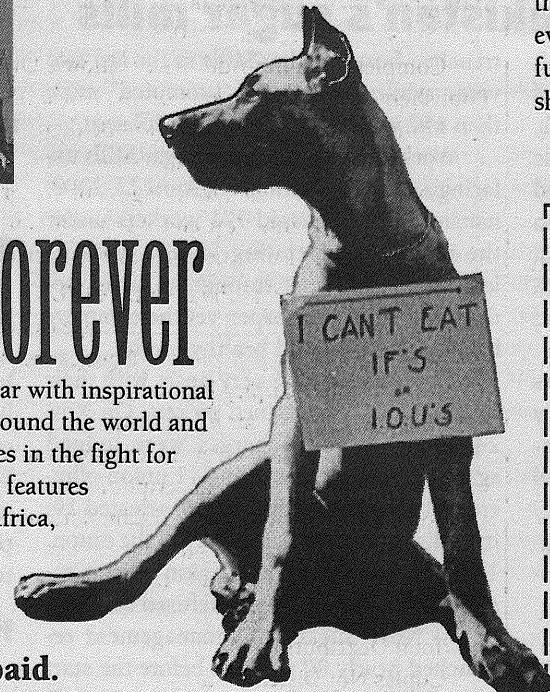
IWW Baseball Cap

A beautiful black cap with red under the visor. Embroidered logo in white and red, red eyelets, and "Solidarity Forever" embroidered on the back of the cap. Union made & embroidered, one size fits all.

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The IWW's 2002 Labor History Calendar



Solidarity Forever

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colorful 1.5" pins
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Workers resist bosses the whole world 'round

Locked-out hotel workers fined for continuing struggle

Indonesia's South Jakarta District Court has ordered five union leaders dismissed from the luxury Shangri-La Hotel and two union officers to pay over US\$2 million in fines. The case was brought against the workers for losses hotel managers claims they incurred during its three-month closure and lock-out following an industrial dispute.

The decision is highly unusual because this is the first time unions have been regarded as a company under Indonesian law, and the individual officeholders held responsible, in a manner akin to company directors. If the decision is allowed to stand on appeal, a very powerful union-busting technique will be at the disposal of any company which wants to intimidate trade unions.

On December 22 last year, a spontaneous protest occurred in response to the arbitrary dismissal of the Shangri-La Jakarta Independent Labor Union (SPMS) president. Management reacted by closing the hotel and then dismissed hundreds of workers, including union members who were on holiday at the time and not involved in the protest.

While Indonesia's sham labor arbitration process gave management the right to fire the workers, the union has continued to maintain a peaceful campaign to secure the reinstatement of the dismissed workers. Confronted with physical assaults and intimidation, Shangri-La workers have continued their struggle.

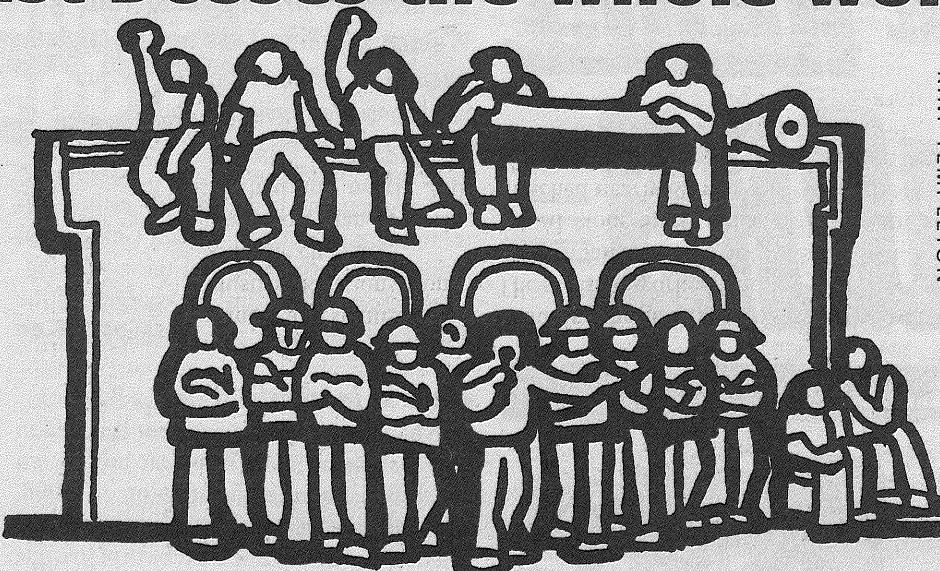
World Food Program busts union in Cap-Haitien

In Haiti's second city of Cap-Haitien the local office of the United Nations World Food Program and the government have colluded in the suppression and breaking of a newly formed union. The First of May Batay Ouvriye union federation reports that the Union of Warehousemen at the World Food Program depot in Cap-Haitien, was busted in early October. The warehousemen were responsible for distributing food supplies for the WFP's school cafeterias program in the north of Haiti.

The dispute is connected to two issues. Firstly, the warehousemen's union was recently informed that a job that had paid 10,000 gourdes (US\$80) would henceforth be paid 2,000 gourdes. The resulting discontent led WFP management to call in outside workers who agreed to carry out the work at even lower wages. Secondly, management rejected the union's attempts to gain compensation for workers who suffer injuries at work. The union recently sought compensation for one worker who suffered an accident at work (he lost a toe). Another worker who recently had his leg broken at work had not received any compensation.

On October 5th, a notice was put up on the depot building summoning union members to the local Ministry of Social Affairs office in order to receive severance pay. On Oct. 8, the union published an open letter to the WFP international offices detailing the developments, and announcing, "We refuse to accept these illegal and absolutely invalid dismissals. ... We inform the local, national and international community that we will continue to present ourselves at our workplaces as normal, because it is unbearable for us to think that, by giving in, it would pave the way for the total impunity of the 'humanitarian' community throughout the world."

Two days later, a special forces SWAT team of the Haitian National Police arrived at the WFP depot. These heavily armed police, dressed in riot gear, dispersed the union members who were posted at the gate, and ushered new workers into the depot.



Swedish postal workers warned

BY LARS HAMMARBERG,
STOCKHOLM

On August 7 SAC members in the Ostermalm Post Office, in Stockholm, initiated a boycott against the distribution of this year's IKEA catalogues. The reason for the boycott was the very bad conditions for the distribution. SAC members demanded extra pay for the carriers for the distribution, or that extra personnel be hired to help with the work. Each catalogue weighs half a kilo, and in Sweden the carriers don't put mail in a box in the entrance of a building, but have to climb all the stairs and slip the mail in each door. The work of lugging all the catalogues is very hard work. Besides, the delivery routes for carriers were recently increased and the number of catalogues will be even greater.

As the post office did not want to compensate the personnel, the carriers in the SAC section refused to deliver the catalogues. The counter-measure taken by the Post office was to discipline the workers. Three carriers received a warning for "refusal to work." With a second warning they can be fired.

Stockholm Post Union (the postal union of SAC) considers this action very serious. If an employer is against a union action it should act against the union, not against its members. To punish the individuals alone has as its objective to violate their union rights, to break the boycott and to frighten their fellow workers away from the union organization.

We ask that protests be sent to the Swedish Postal Service. To participate in a strike or a boycott against a specific job is a human and trade union right. If this right is violated, the union has no possibility of struggling for the rights of the workers. Ask that the Post Service retract the warnings and pay an indemnity to the members and to the organization for violating union rights. Send protests (in English) to: Posten Ostermalm SE, 114 01 Stockholm, Sweden. Send copies to: Storstockholms Postsyndikat - SAC, Bergsundsgata 10 nb., SE 117 37 Stockholm email: skarholmens.ls@swipnet.se

Anti-war protester killed

BY PABLO ORTELLADO, IMC

A student from the National University at Bogota, Colombia, was shot dead Nov. 9 when police forces invaded the National University campus to quell students protesting the war in Afghanistan.

Medical student Carlos Geovanny Blanco Leguizamo was fatally wounded by police gunfire. He was part of a growing network of independent activists in Colombia fighting economic globalization and the war at Afghanistan.

Students strike against war

More than 400 high-school students on strike demonstrated Oct. 26 in the city of Lille (France). Beginning from the Pasteur high-school, this strike spread to eight public establishments. The young strikers gathered behind the streamer "Neither Wars Nor Borders" and affirmed their revolt against the war, their antimilitarism, their refusal to support one or another belligerent, and the autonomy of their own movement.

Hong Kong summit protest

Hundreds of anti-globalization protesters marched Oct. 29 in Hong Kong, defying a police ban on their route through the center of town. The march against poverty and the widening wealth gap took place on the eve of the World Economic Forum's East Asia Economic Summit. Protesters also expressed anger at the expulsion of five Taiwanese labour activists who had arrived to take part in the march.

Mass arrests hit Korean unionists

South Korea's "democratic" government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kim Dae Jung, has sent more than 663 unionists to jail in the three years and 10 months since it took office, according to the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.

The pace of repression intensified this year as the government tries to head off financial crisis by demonstrating its subservience to international capital – some 218 workers had been thrown in jail as of mid-October for union activities, including the KCTU's president. Seventy-three workers were jailed in June alone, the month when the KCTU launched its coordinated industrial action campaign, including the struggle of the Daewoo workers.

While most imprisoned unionists are released within a few weeks, some have been held for many months. "Arrest and imprisonment has become a key element of the government's armor in its drive to keep the trade union movement at bay," the KCTU says. "The fact that more trade unionists are imprisoned in three years and ten months of presidency of Nobel Laureate Kim Dae Jung than in the previous five years under [the prior, "conservative"] president, is indicative of the inherent violence of the restructuring program undertaken by the government."

Indeed, the crackdown has intensified to the point where even officials of the official government-sponsored Federation of the Korean Trade Unions are being locked up. Nine officials of the FKTU's Korean Financial Industry Workers Union were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms for their part in a December 2000 strike against the consolidation of the banking industry. (A complete list of those arrested can be found

Union-busting in Pakistan's sugar mills

Three years of union-busting have left Pakistan's mill workers in the province of Sindh facing an uncertain future. Workers, organized in the Sindh Sugar Mills Trade Unions' Federation, have been confronted with mass retrenchments, "promotions" to reduce union membership and deny legal rights, failure to register workers engaged on contract or casual basis, and repression and harassment of union officers.

In the last three years 1,200 workers were retrenched from two mills managed by the Fauji Foundation, which is run by retired military officers. Management slashed wages by more than 50 percent and illegally refused to pay allowances and bonuses, defying a National Industrial Relations Commission order blocking the changes.

In the last two years more than 50 workers have been retrenched and nearly 200 workers illegally "promoted" in Mirpur Khas Sugar Mills. Once "promoted," workers are no longer classified as workers and are not covered by labor law or local agreements. Management thus need not provide legal benefits and can fire 'promoted' workers at any time and without any reason.

Ranipur Sugar Mills dismissed all union officers. More than 250 workers were re-

at <http://kctu.org/news>)

Increasingly the government is turning to the charge of "obstruction of business" (Article 314 of the Criminal Code), a law which outlaws the most basic union activities. Casual and subcontracted workers fighting to regularize their employment status are also being locked up.

Dissatisfied with the pace of government repression, employers are meanwhile hiring armed thugs to break up union meetings and strikes. Thus far, the government has turned a blind eye to this illegal activity. Many of the arrests result from unionists defending themselves from the thugs' attacks.

An international campaign is demanding the immediate release from prison of KCTU President Dan Byung-Ho and other unionists. Dan Byung-Ho had been freed in August 1999 as part of a general presidential amnesty. He agreed to return to prison to serve the remaining 64 days of his sentence as part of a negotiated settlement to end the summer's crackdown on union activists. However, five days before he was to be released, the government brought totally new and bogus charges against him to keep him behind bars.

The IWW's International Solidarity Commission is among hundreds of union bodies worldwide to write the Korean authorities demanding Dan's release and calling upon the government to release all jailed union workers and end its strategy of repression. Protests can be sent to: Kim Dae-Jung President of the Republic of Korea, 1 Sejongno Jongno-ku, Seoul 110-820, e-mail: president@cwk.go.kr, Fax: 011-822-770-0347. Please send a copy to the KCTU: Fax: 011-822-2635-1134 e-mail inter@kctu.org

trenched from Sanghar Mills in the last two years, while Habib Mills "promoted" more than 150 workers without their consent.

Workers at Shah Murad Sugar Mills are facing a critical situation. On April 22, 2000, management dismissed 171 workers under the pretext of operating losses. Workers learned of the firings through an advertisement in a local newspaper, yet the company balance sheet showed healthy profits.

The workers were very upset with their treatment and maintained pickets. On Nov. 24, 2000, "revolt" charges were lodged against 54 people, including 11 union officers and 11 mill workers. Police arrested 19, including the general secretary of the union. The arrested workers and union officers remain in jail and have been refused bail.

Al Noor Sugar Mills management retrenched nearly 80 workers before the start of the 2000 crushing season, and "promoted" many others. On July 4, managers declared a union meeting illegal, dismissed eight union officers, refused to pay wage arrears of 22 months, locked the union office, and withheld union dues deducted from workers' salaries. Managers also lodged criminal charges against union officers, leading to the arrest of five.